

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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L. T. BROWN

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NEA/ P MR. BRIGGS

----- 100246

R 151507 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR; GR; US

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF GREEK REPUBLIC

REF: STATE 111850

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO FULBRIGHT LETTER OF JUNE 1 PROVIDED BY LETTER SIGNED BY MARSHALL WRIGHT, DATED JUNE 11. COPIES OF EXCHANGE WILL BE PROVIDED. BEGIN TEXT.
HONORABLE J. W. FULBRIGHT, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, UNITED STATES SENATE. DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:
THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 1, 1973 REFERRING TO RECENT EVENTS IN GREECE AND URGING THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REVIEW ITS RELATIONS WITH THE REGIME IN GREECE. YOU ALSO ADVERT TO THE QUESTION OF "RECOGNITION" OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

I AM ENCLOSING A COPY OF A NOTE PRESENTED TO SECRETARY
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ROGERS BY THE GREEK AMBASSADOR WHICH DESCRIBES THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GREEK REGIME AND DISCUSSES ITS PLANS FOR A REFERENDUM ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF NOVEMBER 15, 1968, TO BE HELD NOT LATER THAN JULY 29, 1973. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 1 ALSO CONTAINED A PLEDGE TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS BEFORE THE END OF 1974.

THE EXACT FORM THE " PRESIDENTIAL PARLIAMENTARY REPUBLIC" IS TO TAKE WILL PRESUMABLY EMERGE AS THIS TIMETABLE IS IMPLEMENTED. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME THE RESTORATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN GREECE. AS THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STATED ON JUNE 4, WE ARE CONSIDERING THE SITUATION IN GREECE IN THE LIGHT OF STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE IN RECENT DAYS BY SOME OF THOSE CONCERNED. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, WE ARE IN THE MEANTIME MAINTAINING DAY- TO- DAY CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS.

WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF " RECOGNITION" IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO DEAL WITH GOVERNMENTS AS THEY ACTUALLY ARE AND TO DECIDE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITHOUT UNDUE ATTENTION TO QUESTIONS OF " RECOGNITION". THIS POLICY IS CONSISTENT WITH, AND IN FURTHERANCE OF THE OBJECTIVE OF S. RES. 205 OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1969, WHICH EXPRESSES THE " SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT WHEN THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND EXCHANGES DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES WITH IT, THIS DOES NOT OF ITSELF IMPLY THAT THE UNITED STATES APPROVES OF THE FORM, IDEOLOGY, OR POLICY OF THAT GOVERNMENT." IN THAT SPIRIT, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS CONCLUDED IN A NUMBER OF CASES IN RECENT YEARS-- WHERE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF CONTINUITY HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN THE SITUATION -- THAT A QUESTION OF " RECOGNITION" DOES NOT ARISE. IN THE OPINION OF THE DEPARTMENT, THAT CONCLUSION IS APPROPRIATE IN THIS CASE AS WELL.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CALL ON ME WHENEVER YOU BELIEVE WE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU. SINCERELY YOURS, MARSHALL WRIGHT
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS.

2. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED IN EVENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER QUESTIONS ON RECOGNITION:

QUESTION: WHERE DO WE

STAND ON RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME? ANSWER: IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO DEAL WITH GOVERNMENTS AS THEY ACTUALLY ARE, AND TO DECIDE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITHOUT UNDUE ATTENTION TO QUESTIONS OF " RECOGNITION". IN THE PRESENT CASE,

THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION DOES NOT
ARISE.

QUESTION: DOES THE FACT THAT WE ARE CONTINUING DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH GREECE MEAN THAT WE ACCEPT THE CHANGE FROM

MONARCHY TO REPUBLIC? ANSWER: SENATE RESOLUTION 205 OF
SEPTEMBER 25, 1969 EXPRESSES THE " SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT
WHEN THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND
EXCHANGES DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES WITH IT, THIS DOES
NOT OF ITSELF IMPLY THAT THE UNITED STATES APPROVES OF THE
FORM, IDEOLOGY, OR POLICY OF THAT GOVERNMENT." IN THE
CASE OF GREECE, AS WE ARE MERELY CONTINUING NORMAL DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR DRAWING ANY CON-
CLUSIONS ABOUT " ACCEPTANCE" OR " APPROVAL" OF THE PRESENT
REGIME, AND THE ISSUE OF RECOGNITION-- AS I HAVE JUST NOTED
-- DOES NOT EVEN ARISE.

3. AS OUR REVIEW OF SITUATION, NOTED IN RESPONSE TO
FULBRIGHT, INDICATES THAT QUESTION OF RECOGNITION DOES NOT
ARISE, WE SEE NO FURTHER REASONS HOLD UP WRITTEN COMMUNICA-
TIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS PER PARA 2, REFTE6.

4. WE HAVE CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE
MFA NOTE PRESENTED IN ATHENS, AS THIS ACTION IS
UNNECESSARY AND COULD BE MISCONSTRUED IN THIRD COUNTRIES.
PORTER

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